



SEARCH

The Web CNN.com

Search

ENHANCED

[Home Page](#)[World](#)[U.S.](#)[Weather](#)[Business](#)[Sports](#)[Politics](#)[Law](#)[Technology](#)[Science & Space](#)[Health](#)[Entertainment](#)[Travel](#)[Education](#)[Special Reports](#)[Try Netflix for FREE](#)

SERVICES

[Video](#)[Newswatch](#)[E-Mail Services](#)[CNN To Go](#)

SEARCH

Web CNN.com

Search

ENHANCED BY  
Google

## Bahrain: 5 arrested in terror plot

Source: Target was Americans

Sunday, February 16, 2003 Posted: 7:41 AM EST (1241 GMT)

**MANAMA, Bahrain -- Bahraini authorities say they have broken up an alleged terrorist ring planning attacks in the Gulf kingdom -- home of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.**

Five Bahraini men aged between 31 and 41 were arrested on charges of plotting terrorist acts against the island's "national interests and endangering the lives of innocent people," the official Bahrain News Agency (BNA) reported. Police also seized weapons and ammunition.

A senior Gulf official told Reuters the target was Americans in Bahrain and that two of those arrested were from the Bahraini military.

They were named as Bassam Yousif Abdul-Rahman Ali, Isa Abdulla-Rahman Al-Balooshi, Jamal Hilal Mohammed Al-Balooshi, Mohideen Mahmoud Mohideen Khan, and Bassam Abdul-Razak Abdulla Bukhawa.

It was not clear if the men were acting alone or were part of a larger terrorist network. The detentions are the first terrorism-related arrests made in Bahrain, a close U.S. ally, since the September 11 attacks.

Washington is pouring troops and arms into the region and Bahrain, where about 4,000 U.S. troops are stationed aboard Fifth Fleet ships, is likely to be a launchpad for any attack.

Military planners are acting cautiously to prevent attacks like the 2000 suicide bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen, which killed 17 U.S. sailors.

Two weeks ago a court in another Gulf state, Kuwait, handed down five-year jail terms to four alleged al Qaeda members, one accused of links to the attack on the U.S. warship Cole and a plot to bomb a hotel in Yemen.



The arrested terror cell suspects and (bottom left) weapons alleged to have been seized with the men.

### Story Tools

[SAVE THIS](#) [EMAIL THIS](#)

[PRINT THIS](#) [MOST POPULAR](#)

### SPECIAL REPORT

#### WAR AGAINST TERROR

- Interactive: [The Hunt for al Qaeda](#)
- Interactive: [Terror investigation](#)
- [Terror warning system](#)
- In-Depth: [Terror on tape](#)

advertisement

[Worldwid](#)[Exclusive](#)[Top 10 Pi](#)[Free Issue](#)

Last month, U.S. Navy chiefs ordered the deployment of high-speed Navy patrol cutters to the Gulf to protect U.S. military ships, oil tankers and command vessels from suicide bomb threats.

The U.S. Navy headquarters in Bahrain said security was boosted earlier this week after warnings from local authorities.

The U.S. embassy in Manama had issued an advisory on February 12 notifying citizens that the State Department has authorized the departure of family members and non-emergency personnel at the mission on a voluntary basis.

"Private U.S. citizens should evaluate rigorously their own security situation and should consider departing," it said.

An Arab television station earlier this week aired a message believed to be from fugitive militant Osama bin Laden in which he urged Muslims to fight to repel any U.S. attack on Iraq.

Last September, a Yemeni suspected of Qaeda links was arrested in Bahrain together with his two sons for questioning.

Officials said Mukhtar al-Bakri later surrendered to U.S. authorities in the Gulf state and was sent to the United States.

There are several Bahrainis among hundreds of suspects held at a U.S. military base in Cuba captured during the U.S.-led military campaign in Afghanistan to flush out al Qaeda members.

Copyright 2003 CNN. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. [Associated Press](#) contributed to this report.

#### Story Tools

 [SAVE THIS](#)  [EMAIL THIS](#)  
 [PRINT THIS](#)  [MOST POPULAR](#)

advertisement

[Click Here to try 4 Free Trial Issues of Time!](#)



#### WORLD

WORLD NEWS 

[Fog halts Iran air crash search](#)



- [Turkey demands pledges in writing](#)
- [Official: U.S. 'playing it by ear' on new resolution](#)
- [North Korean fighter sparks alert](#)

#### TOP STORIES

CNN.com HOME PAGE 

[Jessica's new heart beating](#)





- [Turkey wants deal in writing](#)
- [Convicted 9/11 plotter considers appeal](#)
- [Evidence examined in Laci Peterson case](#)

[CNN Europe](#) [CNN Asia](#) [Languages](#)  [CNN TV](#) [CNN International](#) [Headline News](#) [Transcripts](#) [Preferences](#)

SEARCH [The Web](#)  [CNN.com](#)   [Search](#) [ENHANCED](#)

© 2003 Cable News Network LP, LLLP.  
 An AOL Time Warner Company. All Rights Reserved.  
[Terms](#) under which this service is provided to you.  
 Read our [privacy guidelines](#). [Contact us](#).

 All external sites will open in a new window.  
 Denotes premium content.

